

Message Text

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S E C R E T AMMAN 9953

NODIS CHEROKEE

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 1152: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, JO, US,SY

SUBJECT: TALK WITH KING HUSSEIN -- SYRIAN RELATIONSHIP

1. TODAY WAS THE FIRST OPPORTUNITY I HAD TO SEE KING ALONE SINCE MY RETURN OVER FOUR WEEKS AGO. DURING THE COURSE OF OUR CONVERSATION, KING MADE CLEAR THE SAUDIS HAD EXPRESSED SOME SERIOUS RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE JORDANIAN-SYRIAN RELATIONSHIP. IN ADDITION KING SAID THAT SAUDIS SEEM TO HAVE ACCEPTED COMPLETELY "EGYPTIAN LINE".

2. WITHOUT LINKING THE POINT TO EITHER OF THE ABOVE STATEMENTS, DURING THE COURSE OF MY CONVERSATION I CARRIED OUT YOUR ORAL INSTRUCTIONS TO ME GIVEN AT OUR LAST MEETING IN WASHINGTON.

3. THE KING ACCEPTED MY STATEMENTS. HE SAID HE HAD ABSOLUTELY NO INTENTION OF MOVING WITH SYRIAN IN A WAY WHICH WOULD ENDANGER JORDAN OR THE CONTINUATION OF THE MONARCHY. HE SAID TO ME THAT JORDAN WAS CONTINUING TO TAKE ALL POSSIBLE PRECAUTIONS AGAINST ANY SYRIAN OR IRAQI BAATHISTS POLITICAL ACTIVITY INTERNALLY IN JORDAN. AT HIS LAST MEETING WITH ASAD, KING SAID HE HAD TOLD SYRIAN PRESIDENT THAT SUCH ACTIVITY HAD INCREASED AND WAS LINKED TO THE SYRIAN EMBASSY AND WOULD HAVE TO BE STOPPED OR THERE WOULD BE "VERY SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES."

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KING SAID ASAD HAD PROMISED IMMEDIATELY TO DO SO.

4. WITHOUT LABORING THE POINT I TOLD KING I THOUGHT CONCERNS WHICH I EXPRESSED ATTACHED NOT ONLY TO POSSIBLE INTERNAL PROBLEMS, BUT ALSO TO THE QUESTION OF JORDAN AND ITS ACTIVITIES IN THE ARAB WORLD AND THAT HE SHOULD KEEP OUR CONCERNS IN MIND IN THIS CONTEXT AS WELL. I PUT HEAVY STRESS ON WHAT HAD BEEN UP UNTIL MID-SUMMER A SUCCESSFULLY PRUSUED JORDANIAN POLICY OF MAINTAINING A BALANCE IN ITS IMPROVED (AND IMPROVING) RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN EGYPT AND SYRIA.

5. KING'S SECOND REACTION WAS TO SAY THAT ON BALANCE HE CONSIDERED HIS NEW RELATIONSHIP IN THE ARAB WORLD A BETTER SITUATION THAN ONE WHERE JORDAN WAS ISLOATED AS IT HAD BEEN IN 1970 AND BEFORE. IN PART, HE SAID, JORDAN COULD NO LONGER COUNT ON THE UNITED STATES COMING TO ITS AID IN EVERY CONCEIVABLE CRISIS AND THIS MADE IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH THE ARAB WORLD EVEN MORE IMPORTANT TO JORDAN. IN RESPONSE I SAID THAT WE COULD ONLY WELCOME THIS IMPROVEMENT AND HOPE THAT IT WOULD BE A BALANCED IMPROVEMENT AND ONE THAT WOULD CONTINUE TO ASSURE THE PRESERVATION OF THE KING AND HIS COUNTRY IN TIES OF CLOSE FRIENDSHIP WITH US.

6. THE KING CONCLUDED BY SAYING HE APPRECIATED OUR CONCERN, HE INTENDED DOING NOTHING, WITH SYRIA TO THREATEN THE CONTINUATION OR STABILITY OF HIS REGIME ; AT THE SAME TIME HE THOUGHT HE COULD BE A PRODUCTIVE AND MODERATING FORCE IN THE AREA AND ESPECIALLY WITH SYRIA AND THAT SUCH A POSTURE SERVED HIS AND OUR MUTUAL BEST INTERESTS.
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